

## Message Text

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TO NONALIGNED MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105258

FOL RPT COLOMBO 01867 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY 21 APR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 01867

DEPARTMENT PASS TO ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOREIGN MINISTERS (NACCFM) MEETING, KABUL, MAY 6-10

REF: STATE 097545

1. POL OFFICER MET WITH JAYANTHA DHANAPALA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE DIVISION, ON APRIL 20 AND PRESENTED TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 5 REFTEL. DHANAPALA HAD NO COMMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED BUT SAID IT WAS HELPFUL TO KNOW US VIEWS AND THAT HE WOULD PASS THEM ON TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. IN MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NAM DYNAMICS, DHANAPALA COMMENTED ON NAM ROLE IN G-77. THERE IS NO FORMAL MECHANISM WITHIN NAM FOR DEVELOPING ECONOMIC POSITIONS WITHIN G-77. AS  
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HE SEES IT, NAM COUNTRIES WITHIN G-77 DEVELOP INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS ON THE ECONOMIC ISSUES BASED ON THEIR OWN INTERESTS. WHILE THESE POSITIONS FREQUENTLY REPRESENT NAM ATTITUDES, THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO REACH A NAM CONSENSUS AND TO USE THAT TO DICTATE FINAL G-77 POSITIONS. AFTER G-77 POSITIONS EMERGE, IF THEY REFLECT A COMMON NAM INTEREST OR A NAM CONSENSUS, THEY MIGHT BE

ADOPTED AS NAM POSITIONS AT A SUBSEQUENT NAM MEETING. ACCORDING TO DHANAPALA, NAM HAS NEVER FIRST ADOPTED A POSITION ON AN ECONOMIC ISSUE AND THEN WIELDED ITS INFLUENCE AS A BLOC IN G-77 TO HAVE IT ACCEPTED.

3. ON CUBA, DHANAPALA INDICATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS ON CUBA'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, BUT DID NOT MENTION THE VENUE FOR THEM. FROM WHAT DHANAPALA SAID, INFERENCE IS THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE INFORMAL AND PROBABLY BILATERAL. QUESTION IS WHETHER CUBA'S MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA VIOLATES NAM INJUNCTION AGAINST NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS. SOME COUNTRIES ARE RATIONALIZING CUBA'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AS PROVIDING REQUESTED ASSISTANCE.

4. DHANAPALA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT CUBA WILL BE ABLE TO RADICALIZE THE NAM. AS CHAIRMAN OF NAM, CUBA WILL HAVE TO REPRESENT THE CONSENSUS VIEW ON ISSUES JUST AS SRI LANKA HAS HAD TO DO. MANY MEMBERS FIND NAM A USEFUL FORUM FOR ARTICULATING SHARED VIEWS AND VALUES AND WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE IT PARALYZED OR DISINTERGRATE BECAUSE OF A LEFT-RIGHT SPLIT. THEREFORE, MANY NAM COUNTRIES SEEK TO AVOID ISSUES THAT ARE TOO CONTENTIOUS AND GENERALLY WORK TOWARD MODERATION.

5. COMMENT:  
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ALTHOUGH HE ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NON-ALIGNED MATTERS, DHANAPALA SEEMS WELL VERSED IN NAM DYNAMICS AND ISSUES. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER HIS VIEWS ON THE ABILITY OF THE MODERATES TO CONTROL THE DIRECTION OF NAM REFLECTS KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER MEMBERS' VIEWS OR THE SRI LANKAN PROCLIVITY TO WALK THE CENTER LINE.

6. FINAL DECISION ON SRI LANKA'S DELEGATION TO NACC MEETING HAS NOT BEEN MADE. HOWEVER, DHANAPALA EXPECTS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HE AND G. WIJEYASIRI FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE DIVISION, TISSA JAYAKODY, HEAD OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISIONS, AND TWO PERSONS FROM MISSION IN NEW YORK WILL GO TO KABUL. DHANAPALA AND WIJEYASIRI WILL LIKELY BE WILLING TO DISCUSS NACC MEETING WITH EMBASSY KABUL OFFICES.  
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## Message Attributes

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